



Efrat Shvily
Have No Fear At All

Efrat Shvily is from Israel and works in photography and video. His work addresses the conflict in his country in powerful yet melancholic ways. A recent series of black and white photographs of Palestinian cabinet ministers portrayed a fledgling government, left incomplete with the outbreak of the second intifada. The work here is strangely fitting for the cathedral, initially it would appear to be a group of people singing popular and folk songs, some of which sound like hymns in this religious setting. These people are in fact Israeli settlers, singing songs that filled with aspirational and joyous celebration of their new homes in confiscated lands.

Additional text submitted by the Efrat Shvily September, 2004

"...And most important is not to fear, not to fear at all", Israelis have been singing in clubs, community centres, TV studios and private homes for the past three years. "Our road is not easy...", "Sometimes I, sometimes you, so badly need consolation...", read two other favourite Israeli songs. Like no other sociological phenomenon, highly popular sing-alongs characterise the Israeli reaction to the trauma caused by the outbreak of the second Intifada in September 2000. Feeling distressed with the present, with the failure of the peace process and with Palestinian terrorism raging in the street and disrupting normal life, Israelis en masse nostalgically reverted to the past, which offered togetherness, certainty and naiveté. Singing together the old-time familiar songs about love of country and hope for a better future consolation and helped Israelis fight their fears and regain their confidence.

This project is an emphatic study of the Israeli sing-along. It offers dynamic portraits of individuals in the process of becoming a group. The viewer follows the adjustments and gestures they make, their movements and voice, the text they recite and the personality they assume. It is up to him to decide whether they succeed in the efforts to unite, cheer themselves up and repress their fears.